

Helen Asbury

Helen Asbury was an American translator, who was active from 1940 through 1950. In all she translated more than twenty songs written by the Swedish poets Evert Taube, Birger Sjöberg, Dan Andersson, Carl Michael Bellman and Erik Axel Karlfeldt.

Her Taube translations were published in the 1940 book *Sea Ballads and Other Songs*. Her other translations appeared in a number of books. Her lyrics for “Fritjof In Arcadia” were recorded by the band Scafell Pike in 1977. An adapted version of her “Calle Scheven’s Waltz” was recorded by Roger Hinchliffe in 1988.

In 2008 her seven Sjöberg translations were included in *Fridas Nya Kläder* (Frida’s New Clothes), which collected most of the known translations of the poet’s work. The book was published by the *Birger Sjöberg Sällskap* (Birger Sjöberg Society). The introduction also stated that Asbury had translated Sjöberg’s novel *Kvartetten som sprängdes* (The quartet that split up) but was unable to find a publisher.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sea Ballads and Other Songs by Evert Taube, trans. by Helen Asbury, (Stockholm: Kings Press, 1940).

Scandinavian Songs and Ballads, trans. by Helen Asbury, Martin S. Allwood et al., (Mullsjö: Anglo-American Center, 1950).

Twentieth Century Scandinavian Poetry, trans. by Helen Asbury, Martin S. Allwood et al., (Stockholm: Kooperativa Förbundets Bokförlag, 1950).

Frida’s New Clothes, trans. by Stork, Locock, Asbury, Roberts et al., (Vänernborg: Birger Sjöberg-sällskapet, 2008).

Playlist

Tracks 01-22

EVERT TAUBE

A Letter

Calle Scheven's Waltz

Come To My Arms

Encounter In The Monsoon

Fritjof And Carmencita

Fritjof In Arcadia

Honeymoon In Barcelona

The Ballad Of Gustav Blom

The Sea-Eagle's Waltz

Waltz Of the Tatoon

BIRGER SJÖBERG

The Butterfly At Haga

The Canals On Mars

The Dove Queen

Frida Cleans House

The Green-Eyed Monster

Little Paree

The Time When First I Saw You

DAN ANDERSSON

Sailor Jansson

CARL MICHAEL BELLMAN

The Haga Butterfly

ERIK AXEL KARLFELDT

Black Rudolph

Maiden Maria

Serenade